

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66619

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RSMITH:SM

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R 271945Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T STATE 139021

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECTO 1 ACTION KHARTOUM BRUSSELS,
BEIRUT SECSTATE 25 JUNE 1974. QUOTE:

S E C R E T SECTO 1

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SU

REF: KHARTOUM 1495

1. FBIS JUNE 24 CARRIES ITEM QUOTING GOS OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE
ANNOUNCING THAT SUPREME COURT HAD CONFIRMED EARLIER LIFE SENTENCES
OF BSO TERRORISTS AND RECOMMENDED THAT PENALTIES TO BE COMMUTED
DUE TO SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASE. COMMUNIQUE ADDS THAT IN VIEW
OF VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES NIMEIRI DECIDED TO COMMUTE THE SENENCES
TO SEVEN YEARS TO BE CALCULATED AS OF DAY OF THEIR ARREST. IT HAS
ALSO BEEN DECIDED, ACCORDING TO COMMUNIQUE, TO HAND OVER CONVICTED
MEN TO THE PLO.

2. IF FACTS ARE AS REPORTED ABOVE, YOU SHOULD REQUEST IMMEDIATE

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APPOINTMENT WITH NIMEIRI AND SHOULD SAY THAT YOU ARE DOING SO UNDER

INSTRUCTIONS OF USG. AT THAT TIME, YOU SHOULD EXPRESS DISMAY AND EXTREME DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THIS VIRTUAL RELEASE OF THESE CONFESSED MURDERERS OF DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF PRESIDENT NIXON. YOU MAY REMIND NIMEIRI OF HIS REPEATED ASSURANCES THAT APPROPRIATE JUSTICE WOULD BE RENDERED.

COMMUTATION OF SENTENCES TO SEVEN YEARS AND RELEASE TO PLO IS NOT, IN OUR VIEW, ADEQUATE PUNISHMENT FOR THESE CONFESSED AND HEINOUS CRIMES. YOU MAY ADD THAT, AS YOU HAD EARLIER INDICATED, THIS ACTION IS LIKELY TO HAVE SERIOUS NEGATIVE IMPACT ON AMERICAN OPINION, INCLUDING PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL.

3. FYI: IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE TELLING PRESS THAT WE ARE AWAITING CLARIFICATION OF REPORTED COMMUTATION OF SENTENCES AND TRANSFER OF PRISONERS TO PLO JURISDICTION. WE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE OBLIGED TO MAKE FURTHER STATEMENT TOMORROW SINCE NUMEROUS INQUIRIES ARE ANTICIPATED. END FYI. YY

UNQUOTE SISCO

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